

**HISPANIC RESOURCE
LIBRARY/DATA BANK**

The Center staff has established a resource library, collecting data and pertinent materials on the status of Latinos nationally and more specifically in New Jersey.

As a central repository for Latino data, the library maintains relevant information for the primary purpose of advocacy and policy recommendation as well as public education.

RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

The Center seeks to conduct and support research on Latino issues. For this purpose the Center established a research Fellowship program in cooperation with the Center for Urban Strategic Leadership, Rutgers University. The Center's goal is to play an active role in policy development regarding the fastest growing minority group in the State of New Jersey.

This will be achieved by recruiting the best and brightest young Latino scholars to assist in identifying trends and issues to address.

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**CENTER FOR
Hispanic Policy,
Research
and
Development**



State of New Jersey
Jim Florio, Governor

Department of Community Affairs
Stephanie R. Bush, Commissioner

Maria Viazaremdin-De Soto, Director

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development (formerly Office of Hispanic Affairs), is located within the State Department of Community Affairs, Trenton, New Jersey.

The original Office of Hispanic Affairs was established in 1975 by Executive Order to address the needs of the Hispanic community, recognizing that it was imperative to pay particular attention to this segment of the population, which had been historically neglected. The Office was mandated to provide funding, and technical assistance to Hispanic community-based organizations, as well as to keep government and the legislature informed of legislative initiatives with potential impact on the Latino community. From 1975, and up to August of 1991, the Office of Hispanic Affairs primary function remained the administration of funds awarded to local community-based organizations statewide.

In August of 1991, through persistent advocacy efforts on the part of the Office's Director, Maria Vasquez-de-Soto, and support stemming from Latino interest groups, the Office's name was changed to The Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development. Under this new name, the role of the Office would encompass research and development activities. This expansion reflects a historic vision to create a center for Hispanic research that would become a central repository of data concerning Hispanics nationally, but particularly within the State of New Jersey. This expansion allows the Center to look at the status of Hispanics more retrospectively, observe and document trends, conduct data collection, and assessment activities.



THE MISSION

The primary mission of the Center is to improve the Hispanic community in New Jersey through the process of inclusion in policy development and relevant services.

The Center's general mandate includes:

- The administration of grant dollars to Hispanic community-based organizations.
- Technical assistance and referral services aimed at empowering Hispanic community-based organizations.
- Creating training/employment opportunities for Hispanic college interns (a source of potential leadership).
- Conducting and supporting research on Hispanics in New Jersey.

These mandates are accomplished through a variety of programs and initiatives.

LATINO LEADERS FELLOWSHIP INSTITUTE

Summer Program

The Latino Leaders Fellowship Institute was established to prepare, motivate and equip Latino for professional positions in public service and for positions of leadership.

The Institute, in partnership with Rutgers University in Camden, provides Latino college students with the opportunity to develop and enhance their leadership and academic skills.

The Institute complements the Latino Interns in Community Service Program of the Center. The student interns participate in the Institute weekly training sessions.

The faculty for the Institute includes New Jersey's top Latino scholars, as well as, career government officials.

Students are able to contribute through special projects designed to address specific policy or programmatic issues.

GRANT FUND

The Center distributes annual grants to Latino community-based organizations providing services to the Latino community. Funded services range from child care and family services to health service and community development projects. Grants are competitive through a Request for Proposal process.

Funds are made available through the legislative grant-in-aid program and based on annual appropriations.

For more information call the Center.